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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM -  
TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP: AMERICAN NEO-CONSERVATISM AND  
EUROPE

PARIS - WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM
2. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP: AMERICAN NEO-CONSERVATISM AND  
EUROPE

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

RIISING UNEMPLOYMENT, DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH POLITICAL  
CLASSES AND SUNDAY'S REFERENDUM CONTINUE TO DOMINATE HEADLINES  
AND EDITORIALS LEADING LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION TO DRAW A  
COMPARISON BETWEEN FRANCE TODAY AND FRANCE IN 1993 PRIOR TO  
THE RATIFICATION OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY. "THE RIFT IN FRANCE  
HAS WIDENED. AND WORSE YET, THREATENS TO DIVIDE EUROPE WHEN IT  
NEEDS TO BE CONSOLIDATED. TO MAKE IT INTO MORE THAN SIMPLY A  
FREE-TRADE ZONE." (SEE PART C)

IN EUROPEAN NEWS, THE SEPTEMBER ELECTION IN GERMANY IS  
ANALYZED IN LIGHT OF FOREIGN POLICY SHIFTS IF THE RIGHT CAME  
TO POWER, FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO THE GERMAN CDU PARTY  
WOULD: "PIT WASHINGTON AGAINST PARIS."

TODAY'S EDITION OF LE FIGARO CARRIES A PHOTOGRAPH OF AL QAIDA  
LEADER ABU MUSAB AL-ZARQAWI ON ITS FRONT-PAGE WITH THE  
HEADLINE: "ZARQUAUI: WOUNDED." THE INSIDE STORY LABELS HIM:  
"THE AMERICANS' BETE NOIRE"

DRAWING LESSONS FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF POLICE CHIEFS THAT ENDED YESTERDAY IN PARIS,  
LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE QUOTES CHRISTOPHE CHABOUD, HEAD OF  
UCLAT (COORDINATION UNIT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM) WHO  
EXPLAINS THAT "THE TERRORIST NETWORKS IN FRANCE HAVE ALL BEEN  
FORMED AROUND VETERANS OF ONE OF THESE CONFLICTS [BALKANS,  
AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ]."

LE MONDE'S EXTENSIVE REPORT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN  
FRANCE "ANTI-TERRORISM: THE FRENCH WAY" INCLUDES AN INTERVIEW  
OF PIERRE DE BOUSQUET, DIRECTOR OF THE FRENCH COUNTER-  
ESPIONAGE AGENCY DST. HE OUTLINES THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE  
"FRENCH JIHADIST: AS "INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED, YOUNGER AND  
MORE RADICAL THAN A FEW YEARS AGO." BOUSQUET URGES EUROPEAN  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO REINFORCE THEIR COOPERATION AND  
INSISTS THAT CALLING THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR A "WAR" IS A  
DANGEROUS METAPHOR: "TO LIKEN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM TO A  
WAR CARRIES RISKS, AS IT GIVES TERRORISTS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF  
RECOGNITION USING FORCE FEEDS RESENTMENT AND HATRED OF  
DEMOCRACY. IN THIS REGARD, THE DETENTION CAMP AT GUANTANAMO IS  
UNQUESTIONABLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN THAT IT HAS RALLIED TO OUR  
ADVERSARIES' CAUSE INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFY WITH SEEING THEIR  
MUSLIM BROTHERS CHAINED AND DEPORTED OUTSIDE OF ANY LEGAL  
FRAMEWORK."

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR DANIEL VERNET FOCUSES ON THE ECLIPSE NEO-  
CONSERVATISM IN THE U.S. BY NEW EURO-SAVVY MEMBERS OF THE BUSH  
ADMINISTRATION IN LE MONDE'S OPINION PAGES. (SEE PART C)

IN THE ECONOMIC PRESS THE PESSIMISTIC OECD FORECAST ON GROWTH  
IN EUROPE AS WELL AS THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE EUROPEAN  
CENTRAL BANK TO LOWER ITS RATES DOMINATE THE HEADLINES. THE  
EDITORIAL IN LA TRIBUNE POINTS OUT THAT: "BECAUSE OF THE EIGHT  
INTEREST RATE INCREASES BY THE AMERICAN FEDERAL RESERVE WITHIN  
THE LAST YEAR, THE ECB'S MARGIN FOR MANEUVER IS PRACTICALLY  
NON-EXISTENT."

THE ON-GOING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRANCE OVER  
SUBSIDIES TO AIRBUS PROMPTS LA TRIBUNE TO HEADLINE: "AMERICAN  
PRESSURE ON EADS AND AIRBUS." "THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HAS TOLD THE PENTAGON NOT TO SIGN ANY CONTRACTS WITH COMPANIES  
THAT HAVE RECEIVED SUBSIDIES FROM GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE PART OF  
THE WTO."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM

"DEGRADATION"

THE EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION BY JEAN-MICHEL

THENARD (05/25): "THE SITUATION HAS WORSENEDED COMPARED WITH MAASTRICHT. THE LEFT WING IS DIVIDED. AND THE RIGHT IS TAKING STOCK OF THE FAILURES OF THE `CHIRAC DECADE'. NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE IS ON SUNDAY IN FRANCE, EVEN IF THE `YES' WINS, THE POLITICAL CRISIS WILL HAVE GOTTEN WORSE AND THE WINNERS WILL HAVE TO TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION."

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP: AMERICAN NEO-CONSERVATISM AND EUROPE

"THE ECLIPSE OF THE NEO-CONSERVATIVES"

DANIEL VERNET IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (05/25): "WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO BURY NEO-CONSERVATISM TOO QUICKLY. JUST BECAUSE SOME OF ITS PRINCIPAL FIGURES ARE NO LONGER PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THEY HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY A NEW BREED OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS MANY OF WHOM ARE `EUROPISTS.' THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE PARTISANS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, SIMPLY IT MEANS THAT THEY ARE EXPERTS ON EUROPE. THERE IS NO NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA FOR EXAMPLE. THIS IS THE CASE FOR CONDOLEEZZA RICE'S DEPUTY ROBERT ZOELLICK, OR THE NUMBER THREE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT NICOLAS BURNS. OR EVEN THE NUMBER THREE AT THE PENTAGON ERIC EDELMAN. WHO REPLACED A NOTEWORTHY NEO-CONSERVATIVE: DOUGLAS FEITH. COINCIDENCE OR DELIBERATE CHOICE? IN WASHINGTON, THE OPINIONS ARE DIVIDED. CERTAIN FOREIGN OBSERVERS POINT OUT THAT IT IS NOT A MATTER OF CHANCE IF EXPERTS ON EUROPE HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO KEY POSTS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION WHILE GEORGE W. BUSH'S SECOND TERM WAS MARKED FROM THE BEGINNING BY A HAND HELD OUT TO EUROPE. OTHERS CONSIDER THAT CONDI RICE CHOSE THESE DEPUTIES BECAUSE SHE KNOWS THEM, NOT BECAUSE THEY KNOW EUROPE. EITHER WAY. THE U.S. HAS DISCOVERED THAT TO WORK WITHOUT EUROPE CARRIES MORE DISADVANTAGES THAN ADVANTAGES. IT IS A QUESTION OF STYLE, BUT WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP STYLE IS OF THE ESSENCE. A RETURN TO A MORE TRADITIONAL NOTION OF DIPLOMACY AFTER YEARS OF UNILATERALISM DURING BUSH'S FIRST TERM IS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RHETORIC THAT AIMS AT PROMOTING DEMOCRACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. BUT EUROPE WOULD BE WRONG TO REJOICE TOO QUICKLY AT BEING RID OF ITS NEO-CONSERVATIVE INTERLOCUTORS. AND WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED NOT TO APPEAR, IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, TO BE STUCK IN A STATUS QUO WHILE AMERICA BECOMES A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE." WOLFF